

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 were previously pending in the application. Applicants hereby cancel claims 8 and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Restriction Requirement

In the Restriction Requirement dated July 7, 2006, the Examiner states, "Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121...." (See, Restriction Requirement, page 2). In the Restriction Requirement, the Examiner has identified three groups of claims:

- Group I.** Claims 1-7, 10-17, drawn to a media converter for converting between signals of an electrical network and signals of an optical network, classified in class 398, subclass 74;
- Group II.** Claim 8, drawn to a code converter for alternatively transmitting VALID and INVALID symbols at the transmitting side and generating normal data reception state and error reception state alternately at the reception side; classified in class 341, subclass 58; and
- Group III.** Claim 9, drawn to a fault alarm signal transmission system, classified in class 398, subclass 17.

Applicants elect the claims in Group I, claims 1-7 and 10-17, for prosecution on their merits. Applicants have cancelled the claims in non-elected Groups II and III, claims 8 and 9, respectively, without prejudice or disclaimer. Further, Applicants preserve the right to pursue non-elected claims in a divisional application at a later time.

Conclusion

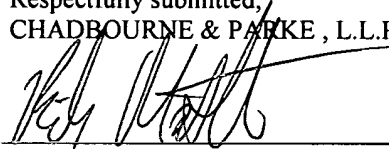
Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected claims of Groups II and III (claims 8 and 9) at a later date. Entry of this election/restriction and an early favorable action on the merits are respectfully requested.

In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate examination of the application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided. Although Applicants believe that no additional extensions of time are necessary, should the Commissioner deem further extensions necessary, such extension is hereby petitioned for. Also, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees any fees which may be required to Deposit Account 03-1240, No. 14998.285.

Respectfully submitted,
CHADBOURNE & PARKE, L.L.P.

Dated: August 7, 2006

By: _____


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